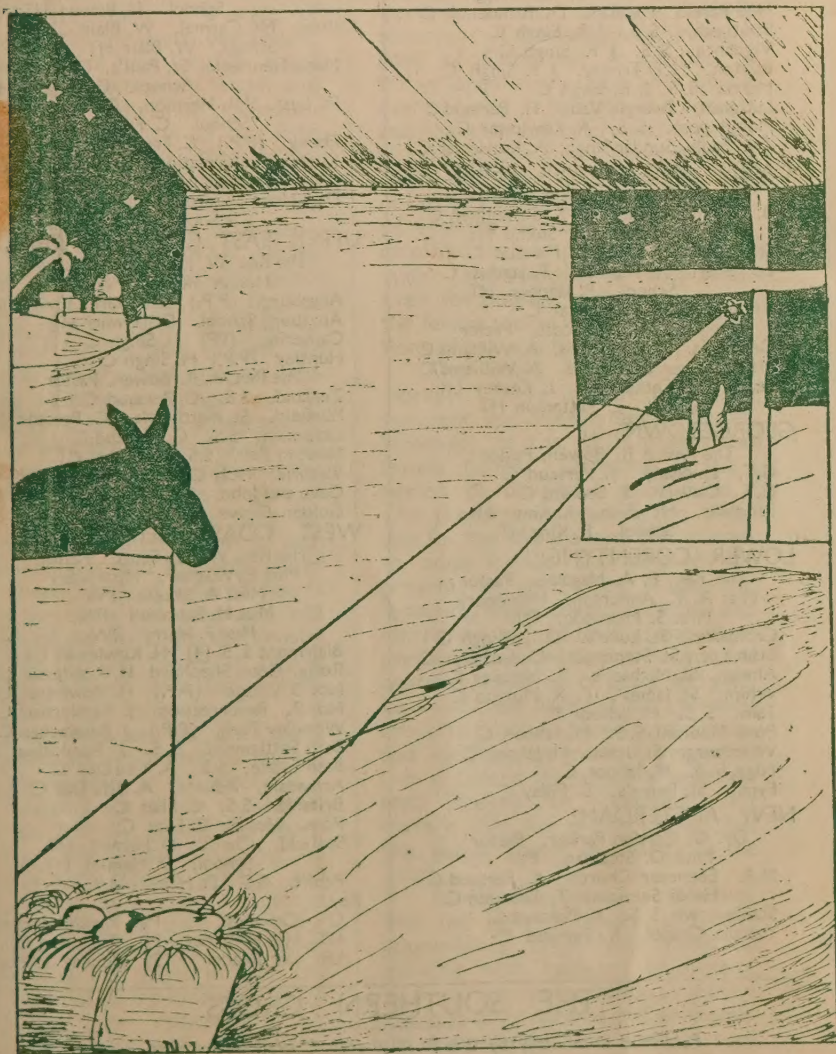


THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Vol. XI No. 6

November—December 1952



JOY TO THE WORLD ! THE LORD IS COME !  
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 School. D. Hamlet HT  
 Profit. S. S. D. Hamlet LR

## Key:

C Catechist PW Parish Worker  
 HT Head Teacher PP Preaching Point  
 LR Lay Reader SS Sunday School

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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Asst. Editor—Catechist P. T. Jagdhar



## CHRISTMAS

(Washington Irving's *The Sketch Book*)

Of all the old festivals...that of Christmas awakens the strongest and most heartfelt associations. There is a tone of solemn and sacred feeling that blends with our conviviality, and lifts the spirit to a state of hallowed and elevated enjoyment. The services of the Church about this season are extremely tender and inspiring. They dwell on the beautiful story of the origin of our faith and the pastoral scenes that accompanied its announcement. They gradually increase in fervor and pathos during the season of Advent, until they break forth in full jubilee on the morning that brought peace and goodwill to men. I do not know a grander effect of music on the moral feelings than to hear the full choir and the pealing organ performing a Christmas anthem...

It is a beautiful arrangement, also, derived from days of yore, that this festival, which commemorates the announcement of the religion of peace and love, has been made the season for gathering together of family connections, and drawing closer again those bands of kindred hearts which the cares and pleasures and sorrows of the world are continually operating to cast loose; of calling back the children of a family who have launched forth in life and wandered widely asunder, once more to assemble about the paternal hearth, that rallying place of the affections... Our thoughts are more concentrated; our friendly sympathies more aroused. We feel more sensibly the charm of each other's society, and are brought more closely together by dependence on each other for enjoyment. Heart calleth unto heart, and we draw our pleasures from the deep wells of loving-kindness which lie in the quiet recesses of our bosoms, and which, when resorted to, furnish forth the pure element of domestic felicity....

The English, from the great

prevalence of rural habit throughout every class of society, have always been fond of those festivals and holidays which agreeably interrupt the stillness of country life, and they were, in former days, particularly observant of the religious and social rites of Christmas...It seemed to throw open every door and unlock every heart. It brought the peasant and the peer together, and blended all ranks in one warm, generous flow of joy and kindness. The old halls of castles and manor-houses resounded with the harp and the Christmas carol and their ample boards groaned under the weight of hospitality. Even the poorest cottage welcomed the festive season with green decorations of bay and holly...

The world has become more worldly. There is more of dissipation, and less of enjoyment. Shorn, however, as it is, of its ancient and festive honors, Christmas is still a period of delightful excitement.... The preparations making on every side for the social board that is again to unite friends and kindred; the presents of good cheer passing and repassing, those tokens of regard and quickeners of kind feeling; the evergreens distributed about houses and churches, emblems of peace and gladness—all these have the most pleasing effect in producing fond associations and kindling benevolent sympathies—It is indeed the season of regenerated feeling...for kindling not merely the fire of hospitality....but the genial flame of charity in the heart...

Surely happiness is reflective, like the light of heaven, and every countenance, bright with smiles and glowing with innocent enjoyment, is a mirror transmitting to others the rays of a supreme and ever-shining benevolence...He who can turn churlishly away...wants the genial and social sympathies which constitute the charm of a merry Christmas.

## WEST COAST BERBICE

The Women's Leagues, and sewing classes are at present devoting their offerings to beautify the altars, and their places of worship.

On September 7, altar cloths were blessed at No. 7, *Resurrection Church*. Miss Cecelia Boodhoo did the embroidery on the white altar cloth, and Miss Ruby Madoo made the green hangings. At *Christ Church, Seafield*, Miss Iris Scipio has kindly consented to embroider green altar cloths. The women of *Good Shepherd* congregation, Rosignol, and the sewing class at *Hope Church, Ross*, have also decided to provide altar cloths for their churches. A beautiful cross and candlesticks of Purpleheart wood have been purchased by the sewing class at No. 11, where Services are held at the Gopaul home. Mrs. Gopaul is making a white cloth with a gold-embroidered cross to use on one of her pieces of furniture. This, with the cross and candlesticks, will create a much more worshipful atmosphere.

We hope that by Easter every church on the West Coast will have a complete set of altar cloths in the proper liturgical colors.

ARMADALE. Advent Women's League reports active Devotional, Visiting, and Program Committees. Thankoffering boxes have been made and taken home by members to be used for "A daily gift, a daily prayer, that all the world our Christ may share." They have also presented a beautiful lectern to the church.

NUMBER 7. *Resurrection* held its election of Church Council members for 1953. Those selected were John Cecil Budhu, Cyril Jacob, Mrs. Beatrice Budhu, Miss Eulin James and Mrs. Lucille Megnauth; Mr. Jacob, and Mrs. Budhu who had previously served were re-elected.

A new Women's League has been formed with the help of Miss E. Wagner.

WOODLEY PARK. The children of Woodley Park and Bath Settlement Sunday Schools are very thankful for the new benches which have been provided for them.

ROSS. The work at *Hope Church* is progressing. Services are held regularly, with both morning and evening services well attended. The Sunday School is gradually increasing; at present it has an enrollment of 39. The Sunday School regrets the departure of Miss Hyacinth Arno, who is to be commended for the valuable service she rendered us.

The Luther League, with 20 members, is again active, and the Leaguers are working hard toward their objective. The President is Miss Judith McIntosh. Recently the Leaguers, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Samuel McIntosh, presented a concert. The Misses Judith McIntosh and Eunice Davidson ably trained and directed a choir of men, women, and children for the program. The selections were well-presented and well-received by a large and appreciative audience. These young ladies are to be highly commended for the choir's outstanding performance. *Hope Chapel* was too small to accommodate the number of friends and members who came, so that many had to remain outside, although extra seating accommodations had been provided.

## BEL AIR PARISH

ST. MARY'S. This congregation is rejoicing in the visible signs of increased interest in church attendance, and support of the various church organizations.

New officers for the Luther League are Miss Nlonica Persaud, President; Mr. Muldheo, Vice-President; Virginia Cumberbatch, Secretary; Veronica Persaud, Assistant Secretary; Mr. Granum, Treasurer.

Plans are being made for expanding the number and variety of books in the library.

Catechist Henry Solomon has been transferred from this parish to the Skeldon Parish. Baptized and Communicant Membership has increased during his term of service in Bel Air. We wish him continued success in his new location.



## UPPER BERBICE PARISH

KWAKWANI. Miss Pearlina Lewis has been appointed to the staff of Mount Olivet Lutheran School.

DE VELDE. School re-opened on September 1st. Miss Malvina Elias, who had been serving as assistant teacher at Reformation School, Kimbia, has been appointed to serve at Grace in the dual capacity of Assistant Teacher and Matron.

ITUNI. Catechist Blair reports the following: "The Rev. W. J. E. Scott (acting pastor of the Parish) arrived at Mt. Carmel from Kwakwani at about 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 23. On his arrival he informed the Catechist that, on his way, he noticed a house on fire in the Parawai district. After a brief consultation with the Pastor, Catechist Blair, accompanied by his son and Eustace Rose, motored to the district to find out which of our good people had suffered this loss.

"Through a heavy shower of rain—which alas! was about an hour too late to prevent the destruction—the party arrived at Parapi and found that Mr. J. T. N. Borkoye, a very sincere and faithful member of Mt. Carmel, was the victim of this misfortune.

"Mr. Borkoye was ill and lying in bed. Charlie, his younger son, was baking the Sunday morning loaf when the kitchen accidentally took fire; and bread, oven, kitchen and all went up in smoke, but Charlie managed to escape. The hungry flames then crossed to the house and all that they left of the building was the lower flat; but very badly scorched. Fortunately Daddy Borkoye, like Charlie, proved to be too swift for the angry flames; he saved himself—and the family's clothing as well. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shanks very kindly shared their home with him and his three children."

## IN THE LONELY MIDNIGHT

Theodore C. Williams

In the lonely midnight, On the wintry hill,  
Shepherds heard the angels singing, "Peace, goodwill."  
Listen, O ye weary, to the angels' song,  
Unto you the tidings of great joy belong.

Though in David's city angels sing no more,  
Love makes angel music on earth's darkest shore;  
Though no heavenly glory meet your wondering eyes,  
Love can make your dwelling bright as paradise.

Though the child of Mary, sent from heaven on high,  
In His manger cradle may no longer lie,  
Love is King forever, though the proud world scorn;  
If ye truly seek Him, Christ your King is born.

## GEORGETOWN PARISH

**SANDHILLS.** Candidates are being prepared for Confirmation at Harvest Festival time in November.

Attendance at the Day School during the first two weeks of the new term was 85 per cent and 91.2 per cent respectively.

At a recent Luther League election, Miss Ivy George was chosen to be President; Sheila Benjamin, Vice president and Roll Call Secretary; Victor Forde, Secretary; Mrs. R. King serves as Treasurer. The League's cricket team has acquired additional equipment of two bats, a pair of batting pads, and a ball. Playing time is scheduled for Saturday afternoons.

**EPIPHANY.** A pageant, *Thomas the Twin*, was presented, with a special performance for the Sunday School children and their friends.

A successful Vacation Church School was conducted this year, beginning with an enrollment of 12, which soon rose to 60. Devotions opened and closed each daily session which was conducted from 8:30-11:30 a.m. In addition to regular classes, there were periods for painting, handicraft, and games. This School was so successful that plans have been laid for another one to be held during the Christmas vacation, at which time the students will make toys for Christmas. Interest in the Vacation Church School has stimulated Sunday School attendance, part of which is credited to the day-to-day contact with the children.

A Lay Readers' Class is being held three nights a week, with an

attendance of 10. Books being studied are *Martin of Mansfeld*, *Deacon and Worship*, and *The Way of Salvation*. Attendance at these meetings has been 100 per cent.

The fourteenth Anniversary was celebrated on October 12, with Holy Communion and a special anniversary sermon at the evening service. A joint Harvest and Reformation Day program was observed with a special program including a Children's Service, and a Reformation Pageant.

La Penitence Sunday School is being held in the Catechist's house. Attendance is good. A Homecraft Class for the girls is being conducted by Mrs. Persaud; a similar class for boys will be started soon.

Alexander Village Sunday School continues to meet under the house of Mr. and Mrs. Ram who have shown us great kindness by their painstaking efforts to provide a suitable, neat place for us. The work is progressing, but this School needs a place of its own.

**CALVARY.** Vacation Church School had an average attendance of 95 per cent for the Young People's group, and 100 per cent for the Adult group. The program for the Young People consisted of lectures on *The Fundamentals of the Christian Faith*, with manual work periods in Cartooning, and Paper Folding. The Adult group studied the Gospel according to St. Matthew, with a final lecture on *The Ethics of Christian Prayer*.

## ULCA CONVENTION AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The Eighteenth Biennial Convention of the United Lutheran Church in America met at Seattle, Washington, October 8-15. As an affiliated church of this body, the Lutheran Church in British Guiana had the Rev. Paul Hansen as its clergy delegate, and alternate the Rev. Hector C. Magalee. Lay delegate was Mr. Isaac Rampersaud, a medical student from British Guiana who is studying in the States, and alternate Mrs. Hector Magalee.

Sing ye the songs of praise;

Christmas is come!

High your glad voices raise;

Christmas is come!

Cast worldly cares away;

Worship and homage pay;

Welcome the blessed day;

Christmas is come!

This day in Bethlehem

Jesus was born!

King of Jerusalem,

Jesus was born!

Sun of all righteousness,

Shining with blessedness,

Sharing our sinfulness,

Jesus was born!

W. Layng



## SKELDON HIGH SCHOOL

Enrollment of 44 new students is taxing the accommodations and furniture of the high school building. More chairs and tables are urgently needed.

Miss Savitri Barran, honour student, is continuing her education at Bishop's High School for Girls. Before leaving Skeldon High she was presented with a gold brooch.

Mr. Ongkhar Narayan has joined the teaching staff to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Vice-principal Edgar Menzies.

*Dramatic Club.* Plans are underway for the annual Christmas Concert.

## BUXTON PARISH

Miss Ruth Yisu Das, newly appointed Parish Worker, reports she is busy visiting and becoming acquainted with Church members and prospects in her new field of work.

## CANJE AND LOWER BERBICE PARISH

*LOCHABER.* School attendance has increased to the point where there is a dire need for a larger building to accommodate the increased enrollment.

*BETSY GROUND.* Transfiguration is rejoicing in its improved church building, which was re-dedicated on August 10. A vestry, porch, and tower have been added, with interior changes of a large Chancel, Communion Rails, a Dossal Curtain, new pews, and a pulpit which is a gift of the Women's League.

The school held its first Exhibition and Sale, which was well-attended and considered a success. The school has attained full status with the addition of an Upper B class. Miss Cynthia Williams has been selected for admission into the Teachers' Training College; her

place on the staff is filled by Mrs. Enid B. Marks. Miss Iris Munro has been appointed as a Church-paid Pupil Teacher, James Dookram, a member of the recently consecrated class of Catechists, is spending three months in the school to become acquainted with school administration before assuming the position of Head Teacher-Catechist at Augsburg, Burma.

Mr. James A. Sukhu, Head-Teacher, is on a three-month leave-of-absence, during which time Stephen Muttoo is Acting Head Teacher.

The school bade Dr. G. Gordon Parker "au revoir", wished him a happy holiday, and expressed a hope for his return. He was presented with a leather purse and a key wallet bearing the coat of arms of British Guiana.

*FEARN.* In the school, four pupils out of twelve have been recommended for regular attendance certificates, the highest number since 1948.

## NEW AMSTERDAM

*EBENEZER.* The Women's League observed their 18th Anniversary with an appropriate service at which the main speaker was Mrs. H. Pollard. Later in the same week a social evening was held in further observation of the anniversary.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of "peace on earth, goodwill to men."

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The bellies of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of "peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,  
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep,  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail  
With "peace on earth, good will to men."  
H. W. Longfellow.

## CHRISTMAS HYMNS

Carols are songs of praise. The first one to be heard by men was that which the heavenly host sang to the shepherds near Bethlehem when our Saviour was born. Ever since, man has joined his voice to that of the angels in loving praise of our Lord, declaring the good tidings of great joy. We all love to sing the sublime songs of Christmas. Knowing something of their origin makes them even more precious to us.

The words of *O Little Town of Bethlehem* were written by the great and beloved preacher Phillips Brooks, to be sung by the Sunday School children at their Christmas Service. The music was composed by Lewis

H. Redner, organist of the church. In the middle of the night, shortly before that Christmas Service, Mr. Redner suddenly awakened to what seemed like angelic strains. He immediately jotted down the melody, and so was born one of our beloved Christmas hymns.

*Silent Night. Holy Night* is perhaps the most popular song ever written. Its author, Franz Xaver Gruber, was an Austrian school-teacher and an organist who probably would have remained an obscure composer had it not been for this true masterpiece of heart-touching beauty which is sung throughout the world.

## CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE

Phillips Brooks.

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight !  
 Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,  
 Christmas in lands of the palm-tree and vine,  
 Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,  
 Christmas where cornfields stand sunny and bright.  
 Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,  
 Christmas where old men are patient and gray,  
 Christmas where peace, like a dove in his flight,  
 Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight;  
 Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight !  
 For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all;  
 No palace too great, no cottage too small.

## LONG, LONG AGO

Anonymous

Winds through the olive trees  
 Softly did blow ;  
 Round little Bethlehem  
 Long, long ago.  
 Sheep on the hillside lay  
 Whiter than snow,  
 Shepherds were watching them,  
 Long, long ago.  
 Then from the happy sky,  
 Angels bent low  
 Singing their song of joy,  
 Long, long ago.  
 For in a manger bed,  
 Cradled we know,  
 Christ came to Bethlehem,  
 Long, long ago.





